

# Annual Report

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July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016



**Child Advocacy Center**  
of FREDERICK COUNTY

"Safety and security don't just happen. They are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear."

- Nelson Mandela



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# Collective Impact

The mission of the Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County is to promote child wellbeing by providing a child and family focused center to address reports of child maltreatment. Together we seek to prevent and reduce trauma to children and families using a multidisciplinary approach to investigation, prosecution, treatment, education, and advocacy.

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is a program of Frederick County Government. The CAC works collaboratively with community partners including the State's Attorney's Office, Department of Social Services, Frederick Police Department, Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Frederick Memorial Hospital, City of Frederick, Heartly House, Frederick County Public Schools, Friends of the Child Advocacy Center, interns, local non-profit agencies, faith communities, businesses, and citizens. Services provided at the CAC that are available to referred children and their non-offending caregivers and family members include forensic interviews of children, pediatric medical examinations, counseling for children and non-offending caregivers, and advocacy.

Join us.

Working together, we can stop child abuse. We can all do more to become ready, willing, and able to prevent and report abuse. Together we can keep children safe and make sure survivors have the opportunity to heal. Please join us. Invite us to talk with your group about the impacts of child maltreatment, and what you can do about it. Join a volunteer group, like the Friends of the Child Advocacy Center. Be the person a child can trust to tell when something is wrong. Call or email us if you need more information.



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**Save their  
futures  
*now.***





Children exposed to violence in their families and communities experience trauma. If unaddressed, the stress caused by child maltreatment has a lifelong impact on physical health, learning, and psychological wellbeing—including reduced brain volume and altered gene function. Children experiencing multiple types of childhood adversity (like abuse, poverty, and bullying) can even have their lives shortened, living 20 years fewer on average than their more protected peers. It's not fair and it is preventable. You can help. We owe all our children a healthy future. Working together we can prevent abuse, stop it if it occurs, and help children heal. The Child Advocacy Center and its partners are committed to a bright future for every child. You can be part of that future.



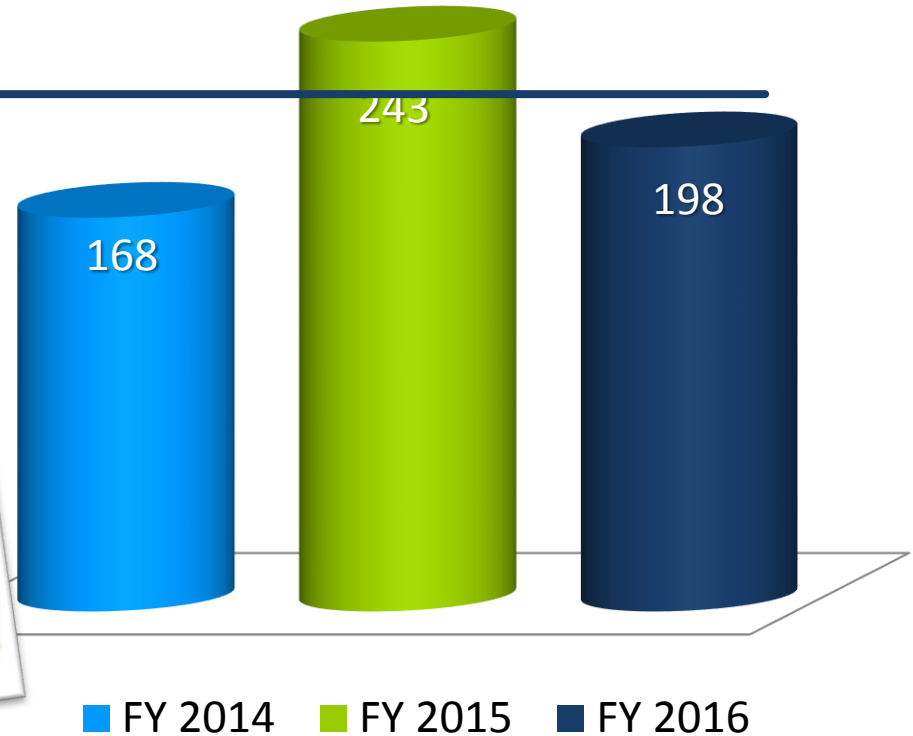
# Quality Service

The Child Advocacy Center facilitates a multidisciplinary response to child maltreatment, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and witnessing intimate partner violence.



every **child** matters

# Children Served



During fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016) the Child Advocacy Center served 198 unduplicated children and 146 unduplicated caregivers of those children, for a total of 344 individuals. The number of children served has been trending up over the past three years. Although the numbers of children served this year decreased from last year, the intensity of services increased.

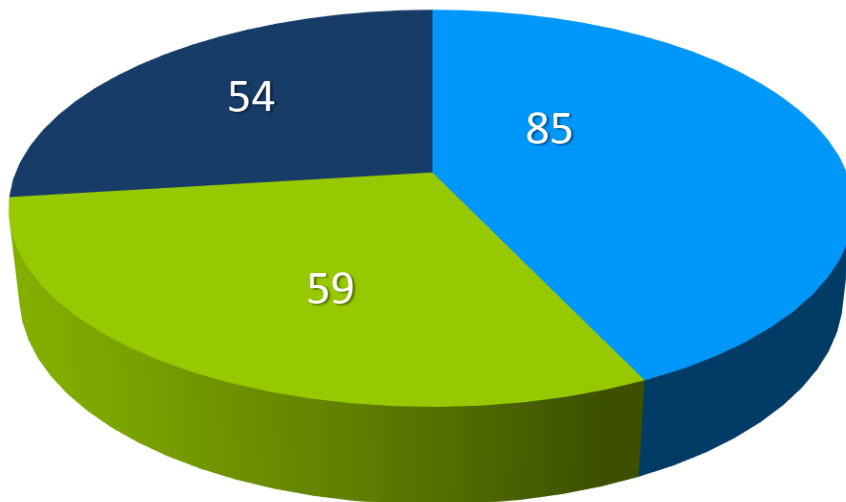
# Demographics

The Child Advocacy Center serves children ages 0 – 18, and in some cases to age 21, depending on status in foster care or the presence of an intellectual disability.



## Age

The majority of the children seen at the CAC in FY 2016 were between the ages of seven and twelve. Of the 198 children served:



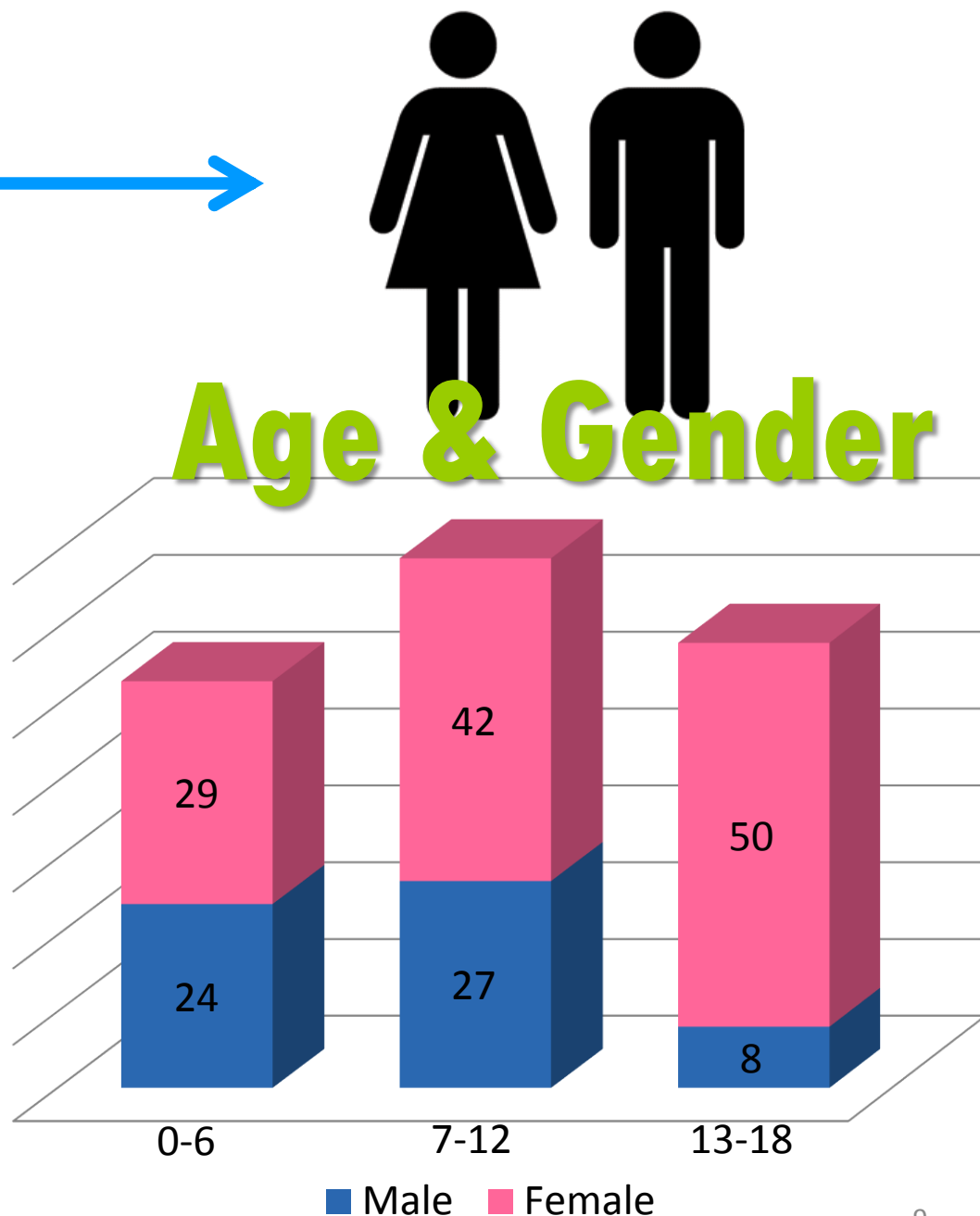
- 43% were ages 7 – 12
- 30% were ages 0 – 6
- 27% were ages 13 – 18



# Demographics

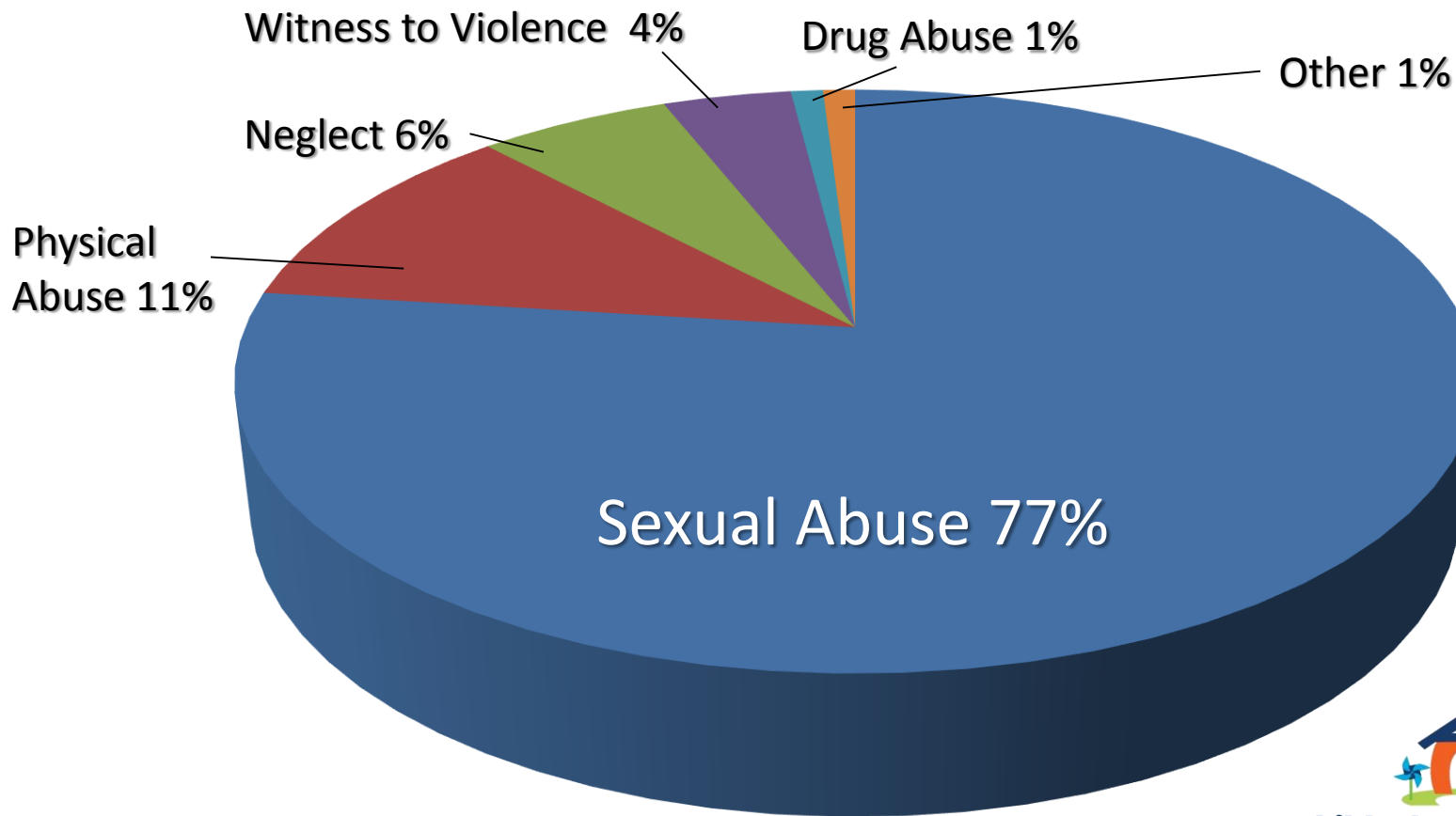
This chart compares age and (when provided at intake) gender. As shown, for children ages 0 – 6, the genders were the most equally represented, with 55% female and 45% male.

However, the gap widens for children ages 7 – 12, where 61% of the children seen were female and 39% male. At ages 13 – 18, 86% of the children seen were female and 14% male.



# Types of Maltreatment

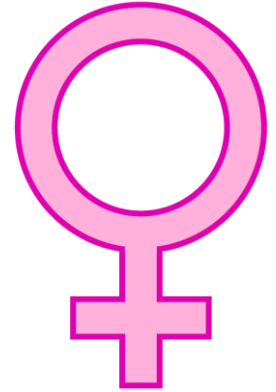
Over three-fourths of the children referred to the CAC were referred due to concerns about sexual abuse. Several of the children seen at the CAC had experienced more than one type of abuse.



# Gender and Abuse Type

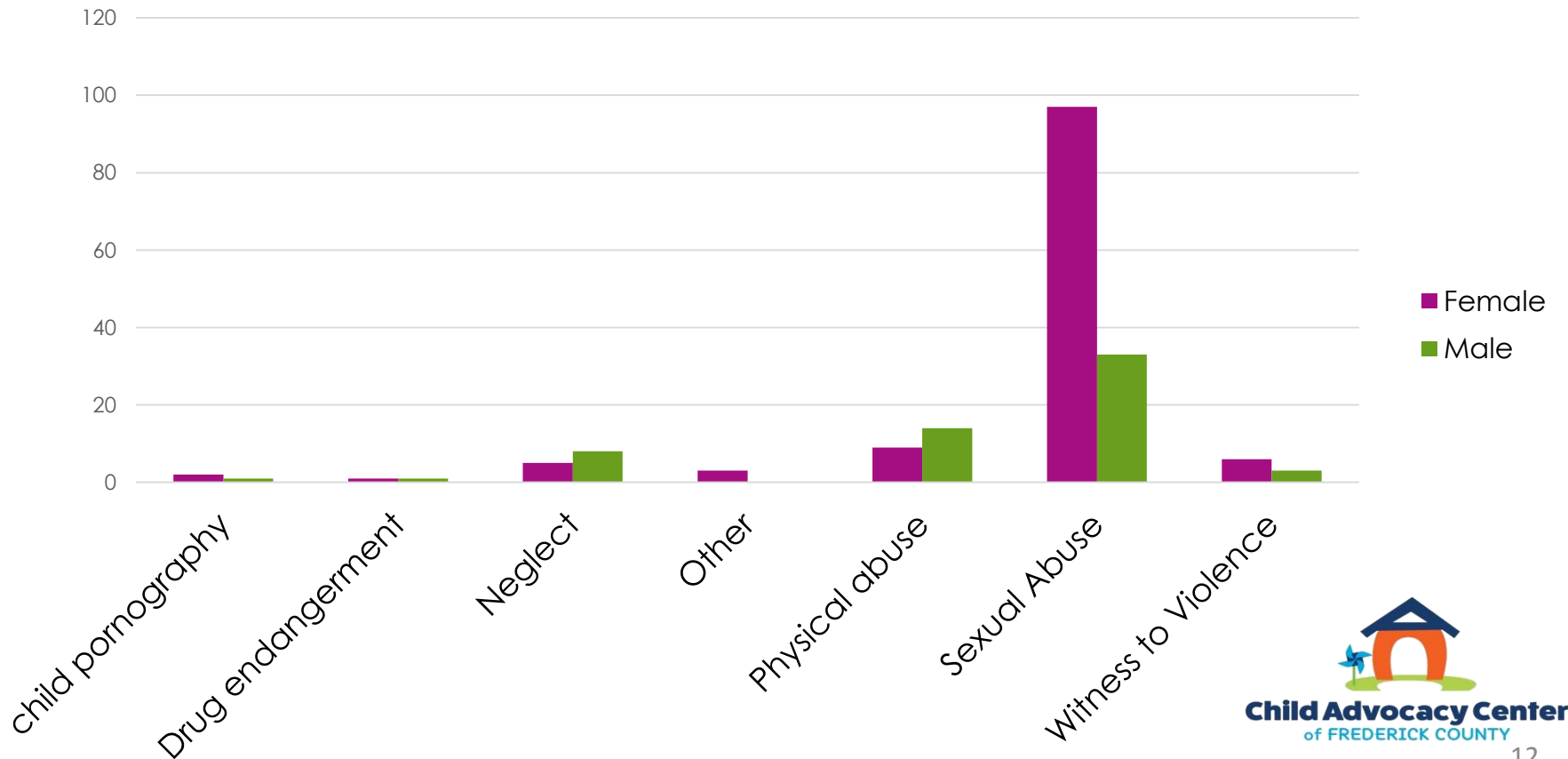
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Two thirds of the children served at the CAC this year were female.



# Gender and Abuse Type

As shown below, the genders of children seen were fairly equal across all abuse types except sexual abuse, where females (97 cases) outnumbered males (33 cases) by nearly three to one.



# Education



The Child Advocacy Center is committed to ongoing community and professional training to ensure continuous quality improvement of services to children and families and increased citizen preparation and commitment to

**KEEP CHILDREN SAFE.**

Child Advocacy Center staff trained over four hundred area professionals and citizens in recognizing and reporting child maltreatment and understanding the effects of adversity in childhood.

In FY 2016 the CAC sponsored and provided the following professional training for CAC partners:

LGBTQ 101 - The Frederick Center (15 partners trained)

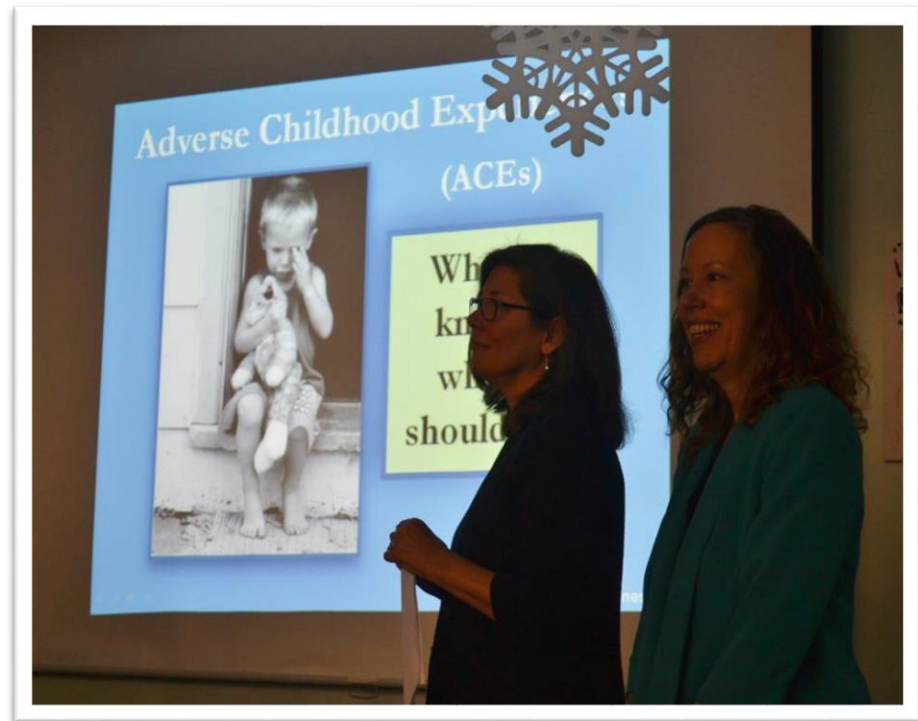
Mid-Atlantic Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (12 partners trained over three days)

Gangs in Frederick – The Frederick Police Department (16 partners trained)



# Presentations by CAC Staff in 2016

- Boys and Girls Club staff
- Interagency Early Childhood Committee
- Leadership Frederick County Participants
- Frederick Memorial Hospital
- Glade Valley United Church of Christ
- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Police officer/deputy recruits in training
- Walkersville United Methodist Church
- Heartly House employees and volunteers
- 1 in 4 Conference presentation on the effects of intimate partner violence on children
- Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault advocates' training
- Frederick County Parks and Recreation camp counselors
- Frederick County Public Schools elementary school counselors
- Maryland State Department of Education childcare providers
- Frederick County Public Schools mental health workers



# 2016 Community Outreach



Three new Public Service Announcements:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAvUHB3JXf8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5t03vmTAcZ8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-qjdHWdYXo>

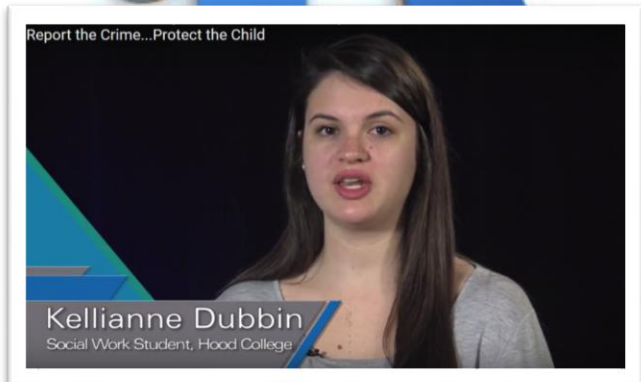
Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC 12)  
presentation

National Night Out at Hillcrest

WearBlueDay featured by the Eagle 106.9 FM

Video produced on the effects of media reports on  
child victims of crime

<https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/7067/Hold-the-Details-Not-the-Presses>



# Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Child Advocacy Center and friends provide numerous activities in April as part of Child Abuse Prevention month...



Proclamations declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, hosted by Frederick County, The City of Frederick, the City of Brunswick, and the City of Thurmont.



Pinwheel gardens, planted throughout Frederick County. The pinwheel is the national symbol of child abuse prevention, indicating the right of every child to enjoy a happy, safe childhood. Gardens were seen sprouting at the Thurmont police department and City Hall; Brunswick Square Park; Frederick City Hall; Winchester Hall (Frederick); Frederick Memorial Hospital; the Healing Garden at Bonita Maas Park, and in the yards and porches of volunteers and other individuals committed to showing their support.





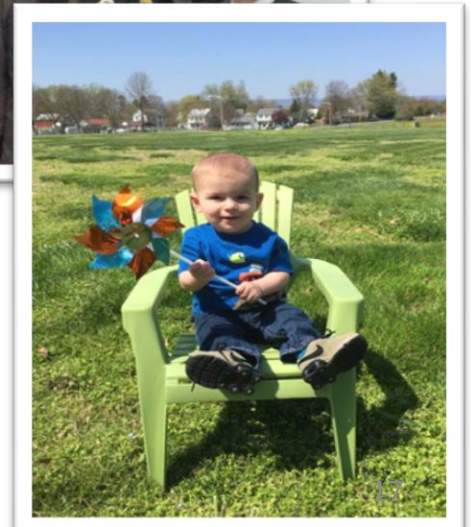
# Child Abuse Prevention Month



← Blue Worship Weekend sponsored by the Friends of the CAC, designating the weekend of April 22 – 24 as a time of invitation to all communities of faith to designate time during their worship service to pray for children.



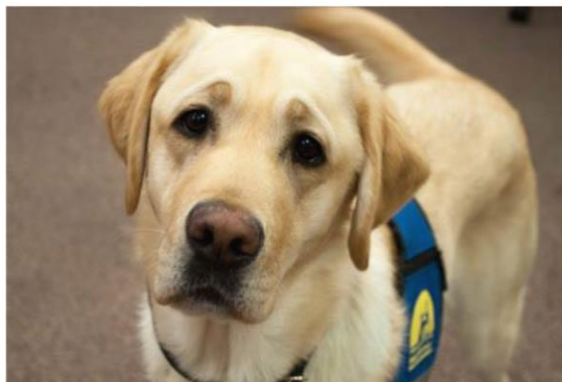
April 15 was designated as WearBlueDay. Frederick County citizens were invited to wear blue to show their support. The Friends of the Child Advocacy Center held a contest on Facebook, and numerous groups and individuals participated. Leland Poole won the prize! →



We are thrilled to introduce our newest team member, **Hodge!**

# Treatment

Hodge is a professionally trained and certified facility dog granted to the CAC through Canine Companions for Independence. He provides comfort and companionship to children and their family members who come to the CAC for interviews, counseling, and medical services.



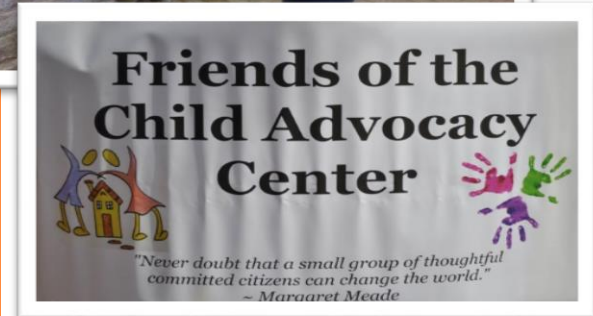
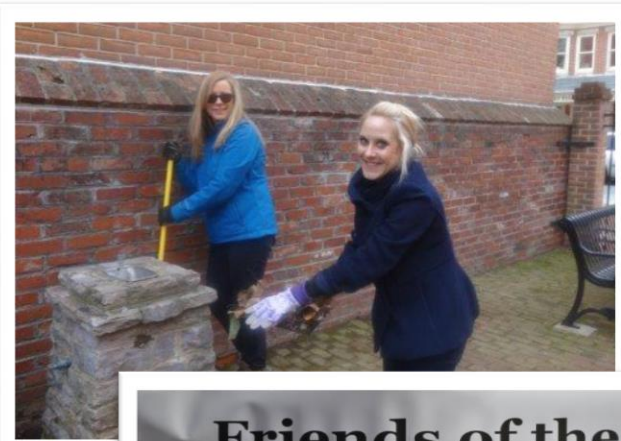
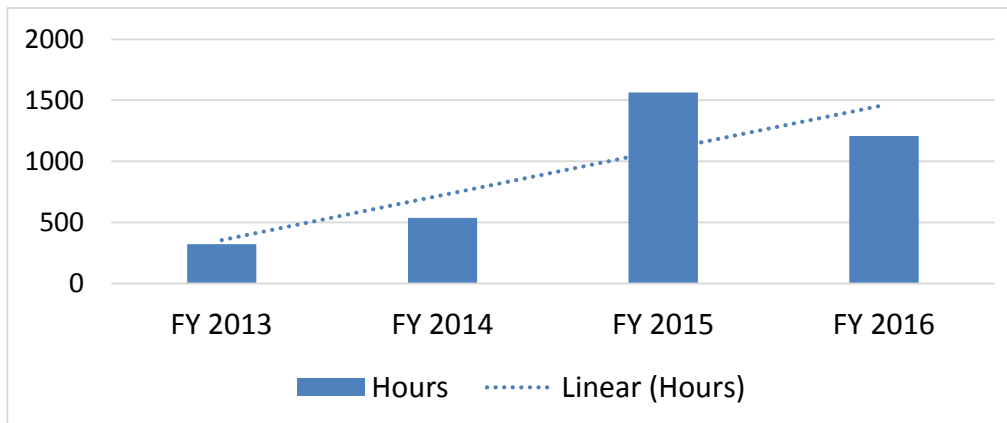
The Child Advocacy Center provides trauma-informed counseling services to primary and secondary survivors (children and their non-offending caregivers) of child

maltreatment. Services include experiential engagement through art, trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, psychoeducation on boundaries and safety, eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR), neurofeedback, and trauma-informed yoga. And time with Hodge!



# Volunteers

The Friends of the Child Advocacy Center, a private non-profit organization, provided the bulk of the volunteer hours contributed to support our mission. As shown, their hours topped 1,200 in FY 2016 and have been trending up over the past four years. Activities this past year have included establishment and maintenance of the Healing Garden at Bonita Maas Park, fundraising, Child Abuse Awareness month events planning and attendance, assistance with children's group activities, funding the costs associated with the facility dog, gift cards to meet emergent child and family needs, and funding therapeutic support activities (i.e. art camp, tutoring, etc.).

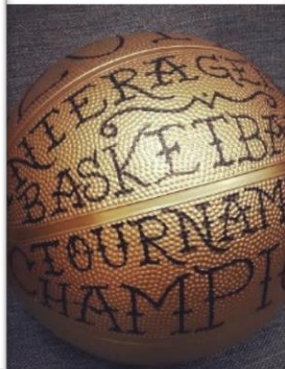


## Friends

The Child Advocacy Center depends on the support of volunteers to help meet the needs of the children and families who need our help.



# Interagency Basketball Tournament



This year marked the 5th annual Interagency Basketball Games tournament, an all-volunteer fundraising effort pitting teams of employees from Frederick County agencies who work with children and victims of child abuse/neglect against each other to win the coveted “golden basketball”. Many thanks to Heather Hibbard and the Department of Juvenile Services for leading the organization team, to all the players who “pay to play,” to the Friends of the Child Advocacy Center who gathered raffle prizes, to local businesses, and of course to the family, friends, and local leaders who stayed to support their teams.

# Leaders on Loan



The Child Advocacy Center was extremely grateful this year for the time and expertise offered by some of Frederick County's finest professionals, who participated in this year's Leadership Frederick program through the Chamber of Commerce. Leaders on Loan is a program allowing groups of interested professionals enrolled in Leadership Frederick to work with organizations to help selected organizations achieve defined goals. The Child Advocacy Center's proposal to increase citizen awareness was selected; the more citizens are aware of the issues of child maltreatment and how to help, the more children will receive the protection and help they need. Leaders on Loan members helped craft a social marketing strategy and an updated "look" with outreach materials to help get the message to more citizens. ArachnidWorks donated graphic designs, giving the CAC art for a new logo, business cards, rack cards, and even Hodge trading cards to pass out to children. It was an amazing partnership that will benefit children for years to come.

# Service Delivery

The charts below compare FY 2015 services with FY 2016 services provided by CAC staff. As shown, service provision increased in the areas of advocacy (up 35%), counseling (up 40%), and financial assistance to families (up 24%), and decreased for medical services (down 42%).

Aggregated Service Types	July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015	July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016
<b>Advocacy / Follow up</b>	308 encounters	416 encounters
<b>Counseling</b>	471 sessions	660 sessions
<b>Medical Examinations</b>	88 examinations	51 examinations
<b>Financial Assistance</b>	\$3,040 in gift cards	\$3,778 in gift cards

Details of Service	FY 2015	FY 2016
<b>Criminal justice advocacy</b>	11 encounters	17 encounters
<b>Personal advocacy</b>	5 encounters	2 encounters
<b>Financial assistance</b>	\$3,040 in gift cards	\$3,778 in gift cards
<b>Information and referral</b>	77 contacts	113 contacts
<b>Follow up contacts</b>	215 contacts	284 contacts
<b>Primary victims' counseling</b>	260 sessions	471 sessions
<b>Secondary victims' counseling</b>	139 sessions	110 sessions
<b>Family counseling sessions</b>	72 sessions	79 sessions
<b>Physical abuse exams</b>	14 examinations	13 examinations
<b>Sexual abuse exams</b>	55 examinations	35 examinations
<b>Neglect exams</b>	10 examinations	1 examination
<b>Foster care exams</b>	9 examinations	2 examinations



# Funding Sources

The CAC's total budget for FY 2016 was \$432,264. Approximately 89% of budgeted funds pay for personnel (director, counselor, pediatrician, advocate, forensic nurse examiner, and administrative specialist) and 11% of budgeted funds pay for operating costs, including printing, program supplies, training, telephones, etc.

The Child Advocacy Center receives the majority of its funding from Frederick County Government, followed by grants, state reimbursement funds from pediatric forensic medical examinations, donations, and The City of Frederick, as illustrated in the following chart.

In addition to direct donations to the CAC, businesses, citizens, and the Friends of the Child Advocacy Center donated gift cards to be used for emergent needs, such as gas for families to get children to treatment appointments, or food and clothing to help a relative provide emergency care for a child. This year, gift cards valued at a total of \$3778 were distributed to families coming to the CAC.

